

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending.

Claims 5-7 have been previously withdrawn.

Claim 1 is herein amended.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected for anticipation by Gentes.

Claim 1 is currently amended to clarify differences between this application and the cited reference so as to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Basis for amendments:

The specification is amended to clarify the process step numbers from the element item numbers, basis is the original page 4, line 12- page 5, line 15.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the various parts of the structure and their interrelationships. Basis is found in FIG. 2-5, and on page 4, line 24 to page 5, line 21, for example.

In response to the Office Action:

Regarding Items 1-2, the rejection of claims 1-4 for anticipation by Gentes:

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action, and respectfully traverses Examiner's arguments that claims 1-4 of the instant invention are anticipated by Gentes, for several reasons which the claims have been amended to clarify.

Anticipation requires that the cited reference contain *all* of the elements and limitations of the instant invention. Applicant respectfully submits that Gentes lacks several elements and/or limitations present in currently amended claim 1 of the instant invention. For example, the instant invention has a semi-finished cover layer composed of multiple portions or elements, each having a different function. For anticipation, Gentes must have *all* of these elements as well. However, as Applicant will show in the table below, Gentes has some, but not all, of the elements of the instant invention:

<u>Instant invention elements</u>	<u>FIG. 3,4</u> <u>Item #</u>	<u>Gentes equivalent elements</u>	<u>FIG. 1,2</u> <u>Item #</u>
semi-finished cover layer	4	clear plastic molding	10
cover layer main body	41	cover shell	12
border, elevated above peripheral material	42		
flared extension portion	43		
peripheral material	11	retainer (col. 3, lines 11-18; called "border member" in the claims)	14

Applicant agrees with Examiner's citation of Gentes' clear plastic molding 10, cover shell 12, and retainer 14 as equivalents to the instant invention's semi-finished cover layer 4, cover layer main body 41, and peripheral material 11, respectively.

However, Examiner then cites an "extension portion(Column 2, lines 65-68).. suspended between the border of said cover layer main body and said peripheral material (Figures 1 and 2) as in claims 1 and 4". Applicant does not find any mention or illustration of an extension portion, or any equivalent. Column 2, lines 65-68 do not mention any structural elements other than the "clear plastic molding 10" which is the entire structure. Claims 1,4 are process claims and do not meaningfully identify the relationship between any structural elements. In FIG. 1,2 the cover shell 12 connects directly to the retainer 14, at a line of intersection, without any intervening element that would correspond to the extended portion of the instant invention.

Applicant finds no support for an extension portion in Gentes. Perhaps Examiner mistook the styling line 24 in FIG. 2 as a structural element. Styling line 24, however, is a decoration (col. 3, lines 49-53) and the structural material is continuous across the line even in the final product. There is also no equivalent of the border 42 of the instant invention which is a pre-designated separation line for the final product.

Claim 1 is amended to further clarify the differences between the flared extended portion 43 and the border 42 elevated above the peripheral material of the instant application, and the absence of equivalent structural elements in Gentes.

Applicant respectfully submits that Gentes does not contain all of the elements and limitations of the claim 1 of the instant invention, lacking the flared extended portion and the border, and does not meet the threshold requirements for an anticipation rejection of claim 1.

With respect to the dependent claims, if the base claim is not anticipated then the dependent claims are also not anticipated. Further, the dependent claims add limitations that additionally are not present in Gentes.

Reconsideration of the anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

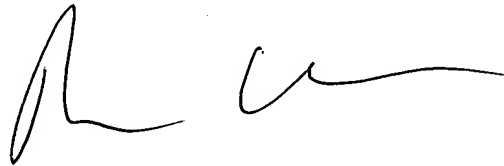
Applicant believes that this amendment answers all instances in which the Examiner rejected or objected, and that the amendment places all remaining claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for issue. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 358-0489.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph H. Willgohs', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ralph H. Willgohs

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